

Remarks

This RCE is responsive to the final Office Action dated December 8, 2003 in which the Examiner rejects all the pending claims 1-36 as either being anticipated by Gudjonsson et al (US Patent No. 6,564,261) under 35USC §102(e) or as being obvious over Gudjonsson in view of DeSimone (US Patent No. 6,175,619) under 35USC §103(a). Applicants have further amended independent claims 1, 16, 32 and 36 to more precisely define the present invention. In addition, Applicants have deleted claims 7 and 34 and amended dependent claims 8-13, 15 and 23 – 26 for consistency in the claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of the Examiner based on the amendment and the detailed explanations as follows.

As now more precisely and expressly defined in the amended independent claims 1, 16, 32 and 36, two voice call connections – one to the destination party and the other to the offeree – are initiated immediately in response to the offeree's acceptance of the offer (which is transmitted by email) by activating an electronic token in the email, and then bridging together the calls to establish a voice call between the destination party and the offeree. With the present invention, both the two voice call connections are initiated only after the offeree activates the electronic token in the email. Applicants respectfully disagree with the assertion of these feature as a whole, which were similarly recited in claim 7 (now cancelled), are anticipated by Gudjonsson et al (US Patent No. 6,564,261), as explained below.

Gudjonsson et al (US Patent No. 6,564,261) discloses a system in which a communication session can be established between a caller and a callee without knowing each other's address (IP address or telephone number) and/or device type (mobile phone, PC, etc.). To do so, the messages are transmitted through at least one intermediate routing service (RS) but not

the system in Gudjonsson generally works in a conventional way except that a routing service (RS) stands between the calling party and the called party to shield the addresses and/or device types.

Gudjonsson, however, does not teach or imply that both the two voice call connections are initiated immediately in response to the offeree's acceptance of the offer by activating the electronic token.

In particular, contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, none of the four scenarios disclosed in Gudjonsson (col. 25, lines 21 to col. 26, lines 29) has taught or implied this patentably distinguishing feature of the present invention. More specifically, in the PC to phone (col. 25, lines 43-63) or phone to phone (col. 26, lines 18 – 29) rendezvous, there is no teaching that the offeree (callee) accepts the invitation by activating a token. In fact, the offeree cannot receive the electronic invitation (INVITE) simply because he is offline, and of course there is no way for the offeree to accept the offer by activating an electronic token. In the phone to PC rendezvous (col. 25, line 64 – col. 26, line 17), there is no teaching that a voice call connection is initiated to the caller Anne (read as “destination party” in the present invention) in response to the callee (offeree) William's acceptance of the INVITE. In fact, the GSM phone of the caller Anne is already in the voice call connection with the voice gateway before the callee William receives the INVITE, and the call is then forwarded to William after William accepts the INVITE (see col. 26, lines 15-16). While in the PC to PC rendezvous (col. 25, lines 21-42), only a text chat session (but not a voice call session) is discussed (see col. 25, line 3), which is remote to the present invention. Therefore, the present invention as defined in amended independent claims 1, 16, 32 and 36 are believed not anticipated by Gudjonsson under 35 USC 102(e).

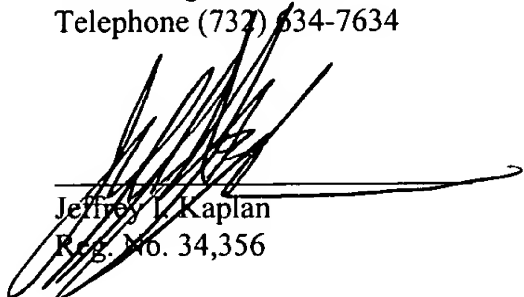
After reviewing another cited patent DeSimore, Applicant believes that independent claims 1, 16, 32 and 36 are not anticipated by DeSimore, either. Therefore, Applicants believe that independent claims 1, 16, 32 and 36 are patentable. At least for the same reasons, dependent claims 2 – 6, 8-15, 17-31, 33, and 35 are believed also patentable since each of them includes all the limitations of one of the independent claims 1, 16, 32 and 36.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the amendment to the claims and the above remarks. The assignee is a small entity under 37CFR §1.27. Enclosed is a check for \$385.00 as the RCE fee under 1.17(e). The Examiner is authorized to charge any shortages or credit any overpayments to our deposit account number 11-0223.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal service as first class mail, in a postage prepaid envelope, addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 21, 2004.

Dated January 21, 2004 Signed  Print Name Margaret P. Sprock